Geselbracht, Jeanne

From:

Geselbracht, Jeanne

Sent:

Thursday, April 03, 2014 12:21 PM

To:

Rosenblum, Shelly

Subject:

E&E News: uranium mill sued

URANIUM:

Group sues U.S.'s only conventional mill

Manuel Quiñones, E&E reporter

Published: Thursday, April 3, 2014

The Grand Canyon Trust today filed a federal lawsuit against Energy Fuels Inc. over pollution concerns at its White Mesa uranium mill in southern Utah.

The trust, which monitors uranium mining facilities in the West, said radon-222 emissions from the mill exceeded air pollution standards in 2012 and 2013.

"Radiological pollution is dangerous, and uranium mills must comply with laws lessening that danger," said trust attorney Anne Mariah Tapp, who also accused the company of exceeding the number of allowable waste pits.

Energy Fuels spokesman Curtis Moore dismissed the claims when the trust first threatened to sue the company in January (*Greenwire*, Jan. 31).

"Our perspective is that the issues raised by this group are either inaccurate, have been addressed or are being addressed as part of the normal regulatory process," he said.

Moore added in a statement, "Both Energy Fuels and the regulators are well aware of these matters, none of which has resulted in a violation."

Energy Fuels has become a major player in the U.S. uranium market. But tough market conditions for nuclear power have led the company to idle operations near the Grand Canyon and to plan a temporary closure of White Mesa.

The company has also delayed development of a new conventional uranium mill in Colorado, which some residents support as a potential economic development boon and others oppose because they think it will add to the region's mining pollution.

The issue is the subject of a new documentary, "Uranium Drive-In," by Colorado filmmaker Suzan Beraza, which has been showing at film festivals around the country.

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